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*Boston University*



Boston University  
School of Medicine

# News & Notes

January/February 1992  
Issue #153

## Silber stresses cooperation between academia, private enterprise at 609 Albany St. dedication

Cooperation between Boston University and private corporations is necessary to further advanced research programs, said Boston University President John Silber at the dedication ceremony of the new biomedical research building at 609 Albany St., on Jan. 14.

The building houses the Department of Dermatology and provides research space for the Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry's Department of Biomaterials. This new facility was made possible through support from the National Institutes of Health and seven private companies, including Christian Dior and the Bristol Meyer Squibb Company.

"This cooperation between Boston University and these various companies that are interested in pharmaceutical development is a demonstration of the kind of cooperation that is going to be necessary...if the economy of the United States is going to regain world competitiveness in the years ahead," said Silber.

"With proper facilities and solid support, researchers can extend the limits of knowledge and find cures for diseases which have inflicted immense suffering and offered no prospect of cure or alleviation in the past," he continued. "Our obligation is continually to build or renovate facilities so that scientists have the resources they need to find and to place the pieces of the puzzles that they know must be solved."

### 'A momentous occasion'

Also addressing the audience were Aram V. Chobanian, M.D., dean of the School of Medicine, Spencer N. Frankl, D.D.S., dean of the Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry, and Barbara Gilchrest, M.D., chairperson of the Department of Dermatology.

"This is a very momentous occasion for the Department of Dermatology," noted Gilchrest. "The opening of this building [allows us] to unify under one roof all the laboratory activities of the Department of Dermatology and to combine our basic research and clinical research efforts similarly under one roof, and thereby maximize the interaction between our clinical investigators and basic science investigators."

"With the additional space, the Department of Biomaterials will be able to accelerate the development of new dental substances, products and technology," said Frankl. "This will help the school continue to keep the dental profession abreast of the best materials and technology for meeting the public's oral health needs."

As Chobanian noted, the dedication marked a new chapter in the growth of the Medical Center: Across the street from 609 Al-



Boston University President John Silber addressed Medical Center faculty, staff and guests at the dedication ceremony for the new biomedical research building at 609 Albany Street. (Photo by Boston University Photo Services)

bany, construction has begun for the School of Medicine's 180,000-square-foot biomedical research building, the first structure in BUMC's University Associates development; and on Harrison Avenue, 60 student apartments are being developed in a rehabilitated 19th-century building that is part of the former Boston College High School.

## Faculty member leads study of new AIDS drug at Boston City Hospital

Researchers at Boston City Hospital are beginning a clinical trial to determine the safety and efficacy of a new nucleoside analogue, 2-deoxy-3-thiacytidine (3TC) in the treatment of AIDS and AIDS Related Complex (ARC). The principal investigator of the trial is Timothy P. Cooley, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine at the School of Medicine and an oncologist in the Section of Hematology/Oncology and Clinical AIDS Service at BCH.

3TC is a reverse transcriptase inhibitor, a class of compounds that interferes with the enzyme used by the AIDS virus to duplicate its genetic material. It is a member of the same chemical group as AZT and ddI, drugs already in use for the treatment of AIDS.

3TC has the same mechanism of action as AZT and ddI, but laboratory studies have indicated that the compound may have



fewer side effects in terms of lowering patients' red or white blood cell counts or causing peripheral neuropathy—damage to nerve fibers. "If 3TC is found to be effective, it may be another useful agent in the treatment of HIV-infected patients," said Cooley.

Four patients already are enrolled in the 3TC clinical trial at BCH, and Cooley expects 20 to 40 patients to participate for at least six months each. If trial results indicate a good safety and efficacy profile, Cooley said the study may be extended. The 3TC study also is being conducted at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Md., and at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver, B.C.

## Study of gay men suggests genetics plays key role in sexual orientation

An in-depth study to determine the basis for sexual orientation indicates that genetics plays a key role in determining homosexuality. The study, which was published in the December issue of *The Archives of General Psychiatry*, was conducted by Richard C. Pillard, M.D., of the Family Studies Laboratory, a division of Department of Psychiatry at the School of Medicine, and senior investigator J. Michael Bailey, Ph.D., of the Department of Psychology at Northwestern University.

During the study, from 1988 to 1991, the investigators recruited gay men raised with identical twins, fraternal twins or adoptive brothers to determine to prevalence of homosexuality among siblings with identical, similar and dissimilar genes. The participants included 56 identical twin brothers, 54 fraternal twin brothers and 57 adoptive brothers.

An analysis of information gathered from interviews and questionnaires indicated that the twin brothers of gay identical twins had the greatest percentage of homosexuals among the three groups of siblings studied. Of the identical twins, 52 percent were gay. Twenty-two percent of the fraternal twin brothers and 11 percent of 57 adoptive brothers were gay.

"The study simply shows there is some genetic influence," said Pillard. "The next step is to conduct genetic studies based on genetic material in the cells. Only by doing that can you get a more concrete measurement."

## Gaensler named recipient of 1991 Forrest M. Bird Award

Edward A. Gaensler, M.D., a professor of surgery and physiology, has been named the recipient of the 1991 Forrest M. Bird Award. The Bird Award, established in 1985 by Dr. Forrest M. Bird, recognizes "outstanding individual scientific achievement in the field of respiratory care."

In 1948, Gaensler performed the first clinical studies on chemotherapy for lung cancer. In 1952, he produced the first complete analysis and review of bronchspirometry. In 1964, Gaensler developed the original American Medical Association Criteria for Disability Determination for Lung Diseases. He also conducted the first pulmonary function studies on the effects of marijuana in 1973. More recently, Gaensler has conducted func-



*A reception recently was held to mark the naming of the conference room in the new biomedical research building at 609 Albany Street after Peter E. Pochi, M.D., a former professor and associate chairperson of the Department of Dermatology. Pictured at the reception are, from left, Gerard Redziniak, a representative of Parfums Christian Dior, which has provided funding for the new building; Barbara Gilchrest, M.D., chairperson of the Department of Dermatology; and Pochi. (Photo by Boston University Photo Services)*

tional assessments of many environmental and occupational diseases, and has completed a review on the surgical treatment of emphysema.

## Friedler selected to be fellow at Radcliffe's Bunting Institute

Gladys Friedler, Ph.D., an associate professor of psychiatry and pharmacology at BUSM, was among 45 women from the United States, Canada and five foreign countries who have been appointed fellows for 1991-1992 at the Mary Ingraham Bunting Institute of Radcliffe College. Candidates were selected from more than 500 applicants based on the significance of their projects to their fields and their own careers. The Bunting Institute is a major postdoctoral research and fellowship center for women scholars, scientists, creative writers and artists.

Friedler is one of nine scientists who will participate in the Science Scholars program funded by the U.S. Office of Naval Research. She is a pioneer in the investigation of male-mediated effects of exposure to drugs on fetal and post-natal development. She is a member of several scientific societies, including Neurobehavioral Teratology and the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics.



## Briscoe receives award from Lena Park Community Development Corporation

Warren D. Briscoe II, M.D., an instructor of obstetrics and gynecology and director of obstetrics and gynecology and family planning at Mattapan Community Health Center, recently received a Patrick F. Jones Jr. Memorial Award from the Lena Park Community Development Corporation. Named for the late Patrick F. Jones Jr., the founding executive director of the corporation, the award is in honor of Briscoe's outstanding work as a single parent and medical doctor.

Briscoe, who is also a visiting surgeon at Boston City Hospital and the University Hospital, was one of three persons to receive similar awards for their achievements from the development corporation, which serves as a national model for improving the quality of life in the inner city.

While raising twin sons, now 13, as a single parent, Briscoe studied at the School of Medicine from 1981 to 1985.

## 20 faculty members to be listed as being 'best' in their fields

Twenty faculty members from the School of Medicine have been selected through a nationwide poll of leading physicians as being a "Best Doctor in America" in their respective fields. The faculty members and their appointments will be listed in the first edition of *The Best Doctors in America*, a book listing 3,840 physicians in every medical specialty.

The faculty members and their areas of expertise are as follows: Martin Albert, M.D., Ph.D., a professor of neurology—behavioral neurology; Richard K. Babayan, M.D., an associate professor of urology—endourology; Elizabeth Ruth Brown, M.D., an associate professor of pediatrics and obstetrics—neonatal-perinatal medicine and addicted pregnant women; Thomas Reed Browne III, M.D., a professor of neurology and an associate professor of pharmacology and experimental therapeutics—epilepsy; Jay D. Coffman, M.D., a professor of medicine—vasospastic diseases; Donald Edward Craven, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine and public health (epidemiology and biostatistics)—AIDS; David P. Faxon, M.D., an associate professor of medicine—cardiac catheterization; Barbara A. Gilcrest, M.D., a professor of dermatology and pathology—aging skin; Irwin Goldstein, M.D., an associate professor of urology—impotence; and Carlos S. Kase, M.D., an associate professor of neurology and pathology—strokes.

Also listed are: Jerome O. Klein, M.D., a professor of pediatrics—pediatric infectious disease; Robert J. Krane, M.D., a professor of urology—impotence; Jonathan D. Lieff, M.D., an adjunct associate clinical professor of psychiatry—geriatric psychiatry; Jan E. Paradise, M.D., an assistant professor of pediatrics—abused children; Thomas Daniel Sabin, M.D., a professor of neurology and psychiatry—general adult neurology; David J. Salant, M.B.B.Ch., an associate professor of medicine—glomerular diseases; Stanley M. Shapshay, M.D., an assistant clinical professor of otolaryngology—laryngology; Gordon L. Snider, M.D., the Maurice B. Strauss Professor of Medicine—lung infections,

pulmonary disease, and asthma; Oon Tian Tan, M.B.B.S., an associate professor of dermatology—pediatric dermatology; and Donald Weiner, M.D., an associate professor of medicine—clinical exercise testing.

*The Best Doctors in America* is published by Woodward/White, Inc., of Aiken, S.C., and will be available in March.

## Willock to serve as officer of academic anesthesia society

Marcelle Willock, M.D., a professor and chairperson of the Department of Anesthesiology, was elected to the position of secretary/treasurer of the Society of Academic Anesthesia Chairmen, during the society's 24th annual meeting. Willock, who coordinated and served as moderator for the meeting, will serve a three-year term.

In addition, Willock presented "Education in Anesthesiology: Who Is Responsible" at the 1991 annual meeting of the American Society of Anesthesiologists. She also moderated a panel on "Organizing and Managing the OR Suite." During this panel, Rafael Ortega, M.D., an assistant professor of anesthesiology and interim chief of anesthesiology at Boston City Hospital, also spoke on the "Function of the OR Medical Director and/or Daily Floor Leader."

## BUSM student named 1991 Academic Medicine Fellow

Ruby A. Skinner, BUSM III, recently was named the School of Medicine's 1991 Academic Medicine Fellow by the Fellowship Program in Academic Medicine and National Medical Fellowships, Inc. Skinner was selected because of her outstanding academic achievement and demonstrated potential for careers in research and academic medicine. As part of the award, Skinner received a check for \$5,000.

## Briefly noted:

**Jerome Glickman, Ed.D.**, director of the Educational Medical Support Center and an assistant professor of public health (health services) and socio-medical sciences and community medicine, presented "Electronic Imaging: From Original Image/Data to Final Output" for Harvard Medical School Continuing Medical Education. The presentation took place in December at The Ritz-Carlton in Boston. Glickman also was elected northeast representative to the board of directors of the Association of Biomedical Communications Directors, and was appointed to the board for the Second International World Congress on Biomedical Communications to be held in 1994....Two members of the Department of Microbiology have been appointed to National Institutes of Health study sections. **Iih-Nan (George) Chou, Ph.D.**, a professor of microbiology, was appointed to the Toxicology Study Section. **Elinor Levy, Ph.D.**, an associate professor of microbiology, was appointed to the Alcohol and AIDS Study Section.

## Upcoming CME courses

The following is a list of upcoming courses sponsored by the Department of Continuing Medical Education.

A course on **"Behavioral Pediatrics: Clinical Problems in Primary Care"** will be held at the Charles Hotel in Cambridge, Mass., from March 13 to March 14. Designed for physicians, nurses, and child mental health professionals, this course will focus on a clinical approach to the identification and management of common developmental and behavioral problems. Clinical issues associated with children's developmental stage and/or social environment also will be presented.

A seminar on **"Controversies in Medicine"** will take place from March 16 through March 20 at the Silvertree Hotel in Snowmass Village, Colo. This course will highlight those controversial clinical questions in cardiology, respiratory disorders, endocrinology, osteoporosis, hematology, and infectious disease. The program will consist of both lectures and small workshops.

A course titled **"Laparoscopy for the General Surgeon"** will be held from March 19 through March 20 at Boston Univer-

sity Medical Center. Specifically designed to instruct surgeons in laparoscopic techniques and their application to general surgery, this course will combine didactic sessions with an extensive animal laboratory experience. The focus of the course will be the performance of basic laparoscopy, laparoscopic cholecystectomy and endoscopic suturing.

A seminar titled **"Recent Advances in Diagnosis and Management of Infectious Diseases in Children"** will take place on March 28 at the Charles Hotel in Cambridge, Mass. The course objective is to provide new information about current issues of diagnosis and management of infectious diseases for physicians and other health providers responsible for the medical care of children. Recent advances in vaccines, antimicrobial agents, and strategies for many of the common infectious diseases will be included in the topics to be discussed.

For more information on these and other courses, contact the Department of Continuing Medical Education at 638-4605 (x4605).

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